12

SEVERAL REASONS AND MOTIVES,

For the ſpeedie paſſing of the ACT Againſt *Tranſporting* of Treaſure, and the Preventing of other Abuſes practiſed on the *Coyns* and *Bullion* of the NATION.

Printed by WILL. BENTLEY,
Anno Domini MDCL.

Money Vol. 1.

SEVERAL REASONS AND MOTIVES,

For the ſpeedie paſſing of the Act againſt *Tranſporting* of Treaſure, and the Preventing other Abuſes practiſed on the *Coyns* and *Bullion* of the NATION.

IT hath been daily practiſed by ſome perticular Merchants, both Native and Strangers, to Tranſport the Treaſure of this Nation, to the great prejudice of the State; who for their own private gain, have not ſpared to damnifie the Common-wealth (ſo highly) that their Perſons and Eſtates cannot give a full ſatisfaction for the great miſchief done and practiſed by them to this Common-wealth, and without a ſtrict Examination, and exemplarie puniſhment of the offendours, or ſome of the chief of them, theſe miſchiefs will never be prevented, (and the Common-wealth be ſtill undermined by thoſe Moles, to the unſpeakable dammage thereof) and for that ſome, through ignorance, do not underſtand and conceave the great dammage which may come to the Common-wealth, by the ſuffering theſe aboveſaid abuſes to continue, and others more craftie and ſubtile, both Gold-ſmiths and Merchants, that are Tranſporters of Gold and Silver, and practizers of ſeveral high frauds and abuſes upon *Coyn* and *Bullion*, have the confidence (or impudence) to make arguments for defending the Tranſgreſſours. Now for the information of ſome in their judgements, that have deſired a true ac-

count, what Laws are now in force in this Nation, for prevention of theſe miſchiefs; what Order and Laws in *France*, *Holland*, and *Flanders*, for the regulating of their *Mints*, *Money*, and *Bollion*; what puniſhments and reſtriction upon the offenders,

I have procured the Ordinance, and Placcaets of *France*, *Holland*, and *Flanders* to be tranſlated; have breviated them for your information; and coated ſome Laws of this Nation now in force, as hereafter follow.

And if you pleaſe to make the Law, now preſented to the Houſe, ſtricter than it is now drawn, I humbly conceave you will do the Common-wealth the greater benefit, conſidering the preſent condition of the Common-wealth.

Tranſporting of Treaſure hath been Felonie, 4. *Henry* 7. cap. 13. and 17. *Edward* 4. this Statute to endure for twentie years. I humbly conceive the Common-wealth hath now as much reaſon to look to keep the Treaſures in the Nation as they had then, conſidering all things.

That you would be pleaſed to give one Moyetie at the leaſt to any perſon or perſons that will or can diſcover the Offendours: that ſo by this reward, all perſons may be invited to diſcover the Offendours all over the Nation, and the ſame rule followed which was in 14. *Rich.* 2. cap. 12. where Commiſſions by Act of Parliament, were granted throughout the Realm, to inquire of ſuch as had conveyed the Money of *England* out of the Nation; in doing whereof great ſums throughout the Nation will come to the State, and the Offendours will remember the Proverb, *Sweet meat muſt have ſower ſauce:* when they ſhall be enforced to pay back to the State that which they have defrauded them of, and will prevent them and all others hereafter for to take the bolduеſs to get themſelves fortunes by any of the aforeſaid indirect courſes, which ſo highly tend to the dammage of this Commom-wealth.

By theſe deceits, Commerce is ſpoiled, Traffick decayeth, thoſe things that are needfull for mans preſervation grow dear, the handie-crafts-work ſeaceth, the work-men betake themſelves to ſome other places, and the Commonaltie, to ſpeak all in a word, is brought to Povertie, (*as is Gravely obſerved by the Maſter Generall and Councel of the Mint in* Flanders, 2. *October* 1647. with their Decleration, clearly demonſtrating, That the carefull and punctual keeping of the Placcaet of the Mint, is very neceſſary, and withall profitable to all perſons of what ſtate, qualitie, or condition ſoever; ſhewing, that if the Placaet be not obſerved, but that money ſhould be paid out above the true value through theſe diſorders, they ſhall never be able to keep their Treaſure within their Countrey.

And in their Declaration ſhewing, moſt judicially, the great miſ-

chiefs

chiefs that befall a Nation by enhauncing and raiſing there Money, being no real cure for the Common-wealth, but utterly deſtructive to all ſorts of people, even from the Prince to the poor Labourer, to any Free-State or Common-wealth, to all Merchandize and Comodities: all which conſiderations, although very potent, yet do not oftentimes come into the minds & comprehenſions, not onely of the Common people, but alſo of thoſe to whom the imployment of Publick Office, have given more judgement and credit in managing of affairs themſelves, & who dare to ſpread it abroad, that there is no harm nor evil in enhauncing the *Coyn* above its true value & worth, becauſe they can put it away at the ſame price as they receive it; not taking notice by the way, that by raiſing and augmenting the price of money, does or muſt by conſequence, augment and encreaſe the price of all merchandizes and proviſions proportionable, whereby of neceſſitie muſt follow, that if the Moneys be augmented and heightened, the Landlords and Creditours receive ſo much leſs; the merchandize, victuals and all other wares grow preſently dearer; the Publick Treaſure either Exciſe or Cuſtoms are abated, by ſo much as you enhaunce or leſſen your Moneys, for it is not the Denomination of a high price of Gold or Silver ſets the value, but it muſt have weight and fineneſs proportionable to what you call it, or elſe you go upon a wrong ground; As for example, in *Scotland* they call *Thirteen pence halfpenie*, *A Mark*; and *Twentie pence*, they call *Twentie ſhillings*; this denomination of a great value gives not the intrinſicate value.

Placcaet and Ordinance.

Concerning the generall courſe and regulating of the Mints and Monies, as alſo concerning the Exchange and Exchangers, Refiners, Gold-ſmiths, and others in the United Provinces 1586.

ARTIC. xi.

AND as for the Gold and Silver-Monies whoſe value is valued by this Ordinance, Wee forbid every one to preſent pay away or receive the ſame at a higher rate than is here Ordered, upon the forfeiture of ſuch Monies or the worth of it in caſe the fact be not preſently diſcovered, and beſides upon penaltie of ten golden Angelots the firſt time; for the ſecond time twenty golden Angelots; and for the third four times as much; and beſides Arbitrary puniſhment according to the hainouſneſs of the fact: and Wee underſtand the ſame forfeitures and penalties to take place as well upon the Receiver as the Payer away, unleſs one of them preſently after the Receiving or Paying away do preſent himſelf to an Officer, in which caſe the denūntiator either Receiver or Payer away ſhall be freed or quitted of the

above-ſaid penalty and forfeiture, and beſides to enjoy the third part of the ſame forfeit and penalty.

ARTIC. xiv.

So that Wee expreſly forbid and interdict every one to over-buy or over-ſell, Change or Chop any Species of Monies rated by theſe preſents, either in taking or giving upon the ſame any profit, gain, or advantage after what manner ſoever, upon the ſame pain and penalty as above ſaid, againſt thoſe who ſhall Receive or Pay away the ſame at a higher rate than that of the Ordinance.

ARTIC. xv.

We forbid alſo every one to Cull any Gold or Silver-Monies, and ſo by this means to ſort the weighty and good ones from the light and bad ones, to Pay away the light ones and make their profit of the weighty upon penalty as aboveſaid.

ARTIC. xvi.

And as for the Stuff and Materials of Gold and Silver being in Maſs or ſweepings, Wee forbid to buy or ſell them at a higher rate than according to the rule of this Ordinance, upon penalty of confiſcation of the aboveſaid Materials, and moreover to forfeit double the worth of them at the charge as well of the buyer as of the ſeller for the firſt time; for the ſecond time twice as much; and for the third time four times as much; and afterwards Arbitrary puniſhment.

ARTIC. xvii.

We expreſly forbid henceforth to Tranſport or cauſe to be Tranſported out of the aboveſaid Province towards any ſtrange Mints, any Gold or Silver-Monies, and alſo any Materials in Maſs or Monies, alſo any Materials in Maſs or Ingots fit to *Coya* Monies of them, upon foſeit of confiſcation of the aboveſaid Monies and Materialls, or the worth of them in caſe they were already tranſported; and beſides this upon penalty of one hundred Golden Angelots for every Mark of Gold, and twenty Angelots for every Mark of Silver, and of more or leſs proportionably for the firſt time; for the ſecond time upon the ſame forfeit and penalty; and moreover to undergo bodily puniſhment and if they have not wherewithall to Pay the above-ſaid forfeits and amendments, they ſhall be bodily puniſhed according to the manner of the fact, under which penaltie and amendments Wee underſtand are comprehended all thoſe who had aſſiſted, and had a hand in the above-ſaid tranſportation or conveying them away, although the Monies or Materials did not belong unto them.

ARTIC.

ARTIC. xx.

Moreover, Wee forbid every one to File, Cut, or Waſh with ſtrong Water or Sement or any otherwiſe any Gold, or Silver-Monies, nor to Saulder, Gild, Peece or Nail the ſame, or any way to make the ſame lighter or heavier, upon the forfeit of life and goods, where confiſcation taketh place.

ARTIC. xxii.

Wee forbid henceforth every one to melt any God or Silver-Monies of her Majeſties of *Englands* ſtamp, valued by theſe preſents upon penalty of life and goods, where confiſcation taketh place: And the Monies of Gold which are found to be too light by three grains, or otherwiſe Clipped, Waſhed, Nailed or Saudered, ſhall be brought to the *Exchange* after the old cuſtom.

Placcaet and Ordinance for Flanders *at* Antwerp *the fourth of* October 1585.

ARTIC. xiii.

And to hinder the tranſporting of the good and true Monies, We forbid all and every one henceforth to buy or ſell any Species of Gold and Silver-Monies, to give any profit or gain for it, upon penalty of the ſeller to forfeit the Pieces which are ſold, or ſhall be ſold, and beſides the buyer as the ſeller to forfeit three-ſcore Pounds of the above-ſaid good Monies for the firſt time; and twice as much for the ſecond time; and for the third time four times as much; and beſides they are to be Arbitrarily puniſhed.

ARTIC. xiv.

We alſo forbid all and every one to Weigh, Clip, File, or make choice of any Species of Gold and Silver, for to make any profit with Melting or Tranſporting of them, upon penalty of Criminall puniſhment, beſides the loſs of the above-ſaid Pieces.

ARTIC. xv.

Furthermore, We forbid and interdict well Expreſly; that no one of what qualitie, degree or condition ſoever, ſhall henceforth endeavor to tranſport or carry into any ſtrange Mints, or into any other than our own, any Gold, or Silver-Monies of our Stamp, or others rollerated by this our Ordinance, nor alſo any other Monies being Clipt or declared *Bullion* melted or in Maſs or otherwiſe, nor alſo any other ſtuff fit to *Coyn* Monies of them, upon forfeit of the above-ſaid Gold and Silver, and beſides of two hundred Golden-Reals for every

Mark

Mark of Gold, and twenty Golden-Reals for every Mark of Silver, and of more or leſs in proportion for the firſt time that this ſhall happen; and for the ſecond time, beſides the above-ſaid forfeit, to be bodily puniſhed, and otherwiſe as occaſion ſhall ſerve. *And if ſo be that any perſon have tranſported any ſome of Monies without being taken in the fact, we will nevertheleſs that whenſoever it ſhall be perceived and diſcovered, they ſhall proceed againſt the tranſgreſſors by execution of the ſaid penalties, even as if they were taken in the ſame fact, well underſtanding that inſtead of confiſcation of the Species, they ſhall be bound to pay the price and eſtimation of the tranſported Monies; and beſides, the double worth of them, and beſides to be Criminally puniſhed.*

We will and Command alſo, *that thoſe who ſhall have helped to pack, or ſecretly convey and tranſport the above-ſaid Monies, either in Maſs or Species, although the above-ſaid Monies did not belong unto them, they ſhall be bodily or Arbitrarily puniſhed according to the qualitie of the fact and Perſons.*

The Policie and Laws of this Realm have alwayes aimed at, and intended the Increaſe and Augmentation of Money, eſpecially that of Silver and this diverſe ways.

9. *E.* 3. c. 1. 38. *E.* 3. c. 2. 17. *E.* 3. 21. 5. *R.* 2. c. 2. 2. *H.* 4. c. 5. 2. *H.* 6. c. 6. 17. *E.* 4. c. 1. *Made Felonie* 19. *H.* 7. c. 5. 3. *H.* 8. c. 1.

I. By providing againſt Exportation of it.

9. *E.* 3. c. 3. 17. *R.* 2. c. 1. 17. *E.* 4. c. 1. 2. *H.* 6. c. 13.

II. By proving againſt the Melting it down to make Plate or other Manifactures of it.

E. 1. *Statute de monet parvam Raſtall Tit. Money.*

III. By providing that if any Monies through time or other practice became uncurrant, then the ſame to be converted into Money again, and not be diverted from *Coyn.*

2. *H.* 6. c. 13. 25. *E.* 3. c. 12. 5. *and* 6. *E.* 6. c. 19.

IV. By providing that none ſhould give a price for *Bullion* or *Coyned* Money above the rate of the Mint, or what the ſame is currant for: for it is not to be expected that any *Bullion* either of Gold or Silver ſhall ever be brought to the Mint, when the Owner may have a greater Price than at the Mint, either to be tranſported or to be converted to make Plate, or other things: of this agreeth likewiſe with the Policie of Spain, which though it be the Spring and Fountain from whence the greateſt Streams of Silver have been derived into other parts, yet Silver there, will always yield the ſeller ſix pence, or one Real more upon the Mark at the *Mint*, than to be ſold to any other for any purpoſe whatſoever, concurring likewiſe with the practiſe of other States.

That

That all theſe Acts are defective and not effectuall to the ends above-ſaid, for the reaſons following.

The Acts againſt Tranſportation, ſome extend not to Gold as 9. *E.* 3. c. 1. others have effect onely upon the Money that is tranſported, and that comes too late, and is ſeldom or never known as, 38. *E.* 3. c. 2. 5. *R.* 2. c. 2. 2. *H.* 6. c. 6. 17. *E.* 4. c. 1. being now diſcontinued.

Thoſe that extend to the ſhipping of it, &c. *viz.* 2. *H.* 4. c. 5. 19. *H.* 7. c. 5. and 3. *H.* 8. c. 1. Give the whole forfeiture to the King and no part to the Informer, whereby they are not at all made uſe of, no man being willing to be at charge to proſecute another, doing no good to himſelf.

None of thoſe Acts do give ſufficient forfeitures to reſtrain the Offences as hath been manifeſted by experience.

Laſtly, they have not given any means for diſcovery thereof, without which the Offendors will not be deterred from finding out cloſe and ſecret wayes to adventure and practice againſt them, when opportunity of great gain and hope of concealment ſhall invite and incourage them thereunto.

And for the Act now drawn and propounded to be paſſed.

BEſides the frame and body of it comprehending and fully extending to all the wayes and means of the abuſes, the ſame for the forfeitures. Is drawn by the example and preſident of 18. *Eliz.* c. 9. againſt tranſportation of Leather, Tallow, and Raw-Hides, and others in the Queens time, and the late Ordinance 1647. Againſt tranſportation of Wool, Fullers-Earth, *&c.*

The Clauſes touching the proceeding by Information, *&c.* are the ſame with the like Clauſes of the ſaid Ordinance for Wool 1647.

And the Clauſes to incourage the Inſtrument and others to diſcover the Offences, wherein themſelves are lyable to the penalties, are framed in Imitation and by the Preſident of the ſaid Act of 18. *Eliz.* and other Ordinances and Edicts of other Kingdoms and Eſtates that give like Exemptions and Incouragements, to ſuch, as though guilty themſelves in the ſecond degree, ſhall reveal and diſcover others more principall Offendors, taking likewiſe from them the confidence they would have, that the perſons they imployed ſhould conceal their

Offences, whereby they will be much deterred from hazarding and adventuring upon the practice.

And the Clauſe touching the Commiſſion and Examination of Witneſſes for diſcovery, &c. And to commit them in caſe of their refuſall to be Examined, is Exampled by 13. *Eliz.* c. 7. The Act againſt Banckrupts and diſcovery of their Eſtates; There being greater Reaſon and Equity for the diſcovery of fraud concerning the Common-wealth, than concerning any private perſon.

In an Ordinance and Placcaet for the general Regulating of the MINT, *publiſhed at* Bruſſel *the* 18 *of* March 1633, *is inſerted.*

ARTIC. XXV.

WE declare, That although any of our Subjects or others, who ſhall have acted any thing contrary to this Ordinance, and were not taken in the fact, yet notwithſtanding, after they ſhall be convinced of the ſaid tranſgreſſion, they ſhall be proceeded againſt with condemnation of the ſaid penalties and amendments; well underſtanding, that inſtead of forfeiting the ſaid moneys and materials, they ſhall be condemned to pay the worth of them.

ARTIC. XXVI.

And if it happeneth that the juſt qualitie and quantitie of the ſaid Species, Bullion or materials cannot be preciſely known or verified, We will, that ſuch tranſgreſſours be puniſhed according to the hainouſneſs of the fact, being left to the diſcretion of the Judges.

ARTIC. XXVII.

Which we intend ſhall take place, in regard of thoſe who ſhall be convinced, to have paid away, preſented, or received any forbidden Moneys, or at a higher price than by this preſent Ordinance is declared, although the ſaid qualitie and quantitie of the ſame could not be preciſely verified.

ARTIC. XXVIII.

We have Authorized and Authorize by theſe, all Officers, for to ceaſe upon and break open the packs, letters, and portmantles of the Meſſengers, or of others whom they ſhall know or ſuſpect, to bring in any of the forbidden Species or Materials, or to tranſpott and convey out of our ſaid Lands, any of our Species, & that in the preſence of thoſe to whom the ſaid packets are ſent to or do belong, if ſo be they

are

are reſiding in that place; as alſo in the preſence of one of the Magiſtrates of the ſaid place, onely to know the name of thoſe who cauſed the ſaid Gold and Silver to be tranſported, and to no other end.

ARTIC. xxxvii.

We alſo order, that all thoſe that ſhall be found to have counterfeited, coyned, ſtamped, preſt, or caſt in the ſand, any moneys of what manner ſtuff or metall ſoever, ſhall be executed, as falſe Moniers, in a kettle with boyling oyl and water, and with confiſcation of all their goods.

ARTIC. lv.

If ſo be any one be convinced, that he had pickt or choſen out, or cauſed to be choſen out any of the ſaid valued Species, for to keep the heavie ones for his profit, and to pay away the light ones to the dammage of the Commonaltie, We will that he, beſides the ſaid Forfeits and Amendments, ſhall be baniſhed out of Our ſaid Lands, for the ſpace of ten years.

ARTIC lvi.

In caſe that any of the perticular Maſters of our *Mints*, or Exchangers were convinced of the ſaid abuſe, or that they ſhould have preſented or paid away, or cauſe to be preſented or paid away any of the ſaid clipt or other forbidden Species, after that they had received the ſame for *Bullion* or not currant, then ſhall they be baniſhed for ever out of Our ſaid Lands, and their goods confiſcated.

ARTIC. lvii.

And becauſe the price of the Species is commonly regulated according to the price of the Gold and Silver materials, therefore We have forbidden, and forbid every one of what qualitie or condition ſoever, to by or ſell any Gold or Silver materials, or Species declared for *Bullion* or not currant, at a higher price than the Ordinance of Our ſaid *Mint* permitteth, upon penaltie of confiſcation of the ſaid Materials and the worth of them, at the charge as well of the Buyer as Seller for the firſt time; for the ſecond time four times as much, beſides the confiſcation and forfeit, and of other arbitral correction.

ARTIC. lxiii.

We order alſo, that the Brokers, who did aſſiſt and help to conclude or treat upon ſuch parſels, either in regard of money given upon exchange, upon Uſe or Obligation, either in payment of the ſold merchandizes, or otherwiſe, ſhall be publickly whipt and baniſhed out of our ſaid Lands for the ſpace of ten years.

ARTIC. lvi.

And as we have understood, and are truly informed, that a great part of the irregularitie concerning the said Placcaets, is risen and occasioned, by reason that many Merchants and Factours will not buy the works and manufactures of the work-men and handiecrafts-men, unless they will receive the Gold and Silver at such a price as they will give it them; or when they have almost bought the goods, they give the merchandizes back again to the sellers, if they will be paid according to the price ordered in our Placcaet: Therefore We will, that such oppressours of the poor Commonaltie, shall be rigorously proceeded against and punished, by apprehension of their persons, and that they, their Proces being summarily and criminally formed, and found guiltie of what is abovesaid, shall be banished for ever, and their goods confiscated, or instead hereof to be condemned in a great sum of money, according to the hainousness of the fact; of which confiscation and amendment, the half shall be given to the Plaintif or discoverer.

ARTIC. lxx.

In like manner shall be punished those with the same forfeits and amendments, who shall have received, paid away, or presented any clipt Moneys, or declared for *Bullion*, with Protestation or declaration, that it is for to deliver them into our *Mints*, or to the Exchangers, unless they had presently cut them in pieces or deformed them, or caused the same to be done by others.

ARTIC. xci

We declare, that although it be that any of the Transgressours do obtain favour and pardon from Us or from Our Councel. We do not intend, nor we will not, that therefore they should be quitted, and discharged from the parts of the said forfeits and amendments, granted by Us to the Officers, Callers in question, and Plaintifs, or Discoverers respectively; but such favour and pardon onely to take place for as much as belongeth unto Us.

ARTIC. cv.

We order well expressly, all Our Fiscals and Officers, to take their conclusions, and all our Councellors, Magistrates, and other Judges, to give their sentences in conformitie of this Our present Placaet, without using any moderation of the penalties and amendments therein contained, under what pretext soever, nor also any compensation of Charges, to the prejudice of the Officer founded in the principal, upon penaltie of our indignation, and for to answer for it in their own persons, without that they shall plead any ignorance, or the general transgression. Which excuses, We do not intend shall avail or help

help them in any manner of way: but our intention is, that they ſhall be puniſhed becauſe of their negligence and connivence.

This Ordinance and Placcact of the 18 *of* March 1633, *is again confirmed; and all Magiſtrates and Officers are required to do their utmoſt endeavours to ſee it ſtrictly obſerved in all points. Publiſhed at* Bruſſels *the* 26 *of* Auguſt 1643.

In an Ordinance and Placcaet for the Regulating of the Mint; *Publiſhed in* Bruſſels *the laſt day of* May, 1644. *is inſerted.*

ARTIC. xi.

WE have alſo forbidden, and forbid by theſe preſents, every one of what qualitie or condition ſoever; as well our Subjects as others, to Tranſport any Gold or Silver from henceforth out of our Lands, directly or indirectly, or cauſe the ſame to be Tranſported, either Minted or Unminted; or alſo in *Maſs*, *Ingots*, or *Bullion*; without having obtained of us before-hand expreſs leave and conſent for to do the ſame, upon penaltie of forfeiting the *Gold*, *Silver*, and *Bullion*, and to pay beſides the double of their worth, and upon forfeit of the merchandizes, if ſo be the above-ſaid *Gold*, *Silver*, or *Bullion* ſhall be found to be packt in them; as alſo of the horſes and waggons of thoſe who ſhall willingly and wittingly have brought and conveyed the ſame.

ARTIC. xv.

And if any one be found and taken to have Tranſported or cauſed to be Tranſported out of our Lands, any Moneys by us valued, or other declared *Bullion*, or any materials of *Gold* and *Silver*, and have delivered or cauſed to be delivered the ſame into any ſtrange Mints; We will that ſuch perſons ſhall be proceeded againſt, ſharply and vigorouſly by impriſonment of their perſons, and that they, beſides, the forfeits of the ſaid Species and materials, and four times the worth of them, for the firſt time ſhall be baniſhed out of our aboveſaid Lands, for the ſpace of five years; and for the ſecond time for ever.

ARTIC. xvi.

And thoſe who willingly and wittingly have aſſiſted for to pack and Tranſport the above-ſaid Moneys or Materials, ſhall be puniſhed according to pleaſures, or baniſhed according to the qualitie of the perſon.

Other Countreys you may ſee ſtrictly provide againſt theſe offences; and it will never be mended here, if you make not as ſtrict Laws as they.

In a Declaration of the King of France, *for the Regulating of the new price ſet upon the Light and Clipt Species of Money: likewiſe for the obſervation of the prices of* Gold *and* Silver *imployed for the Gold-ſmiths work. It is alſo well expreſſly forbidden to melt the Money, and to Tranſport them or other materials of* Gold *and* Silver *out of the ſaid Kingdom. Printed at* Paris 30 *of* October. 1640.

FOLIO 8, 9.

WE expreſly forbid, that all materials of *Gold* and *Silver*, either coyned or uncoyned, ſhall not be bought or ſold at a higher rate than is expreſly ſet down in this *Placcaet*, which doth contain the true value that muſt be paid for the Mark of *Gold* and *Silver*.

FOLIO 13.

We expreſly forbid every one, of what codition or qualitie ſoever, to Tranſport out of our Kingdom, any *Gold* and *Silver* coyned or uncoyned, nor any other Gold-ſmithswork, upon penaltie of forfeiting the materials and merchandizes, and other things wherein they ſhall be found to be packt up in; beſides the penaltie of fiftie pounds and bodily puniſhment.

Whereas this Parliament, by their Ordinance 6. of *Sept.* 1647. did decrie all Clipped, Fyled, or diminiſhed Money (by means whereof great quantities were ſold to ſome Gold-Smiths) who have made it a Trade to deal with Receivers of Publick Caſhes, Graiſhers, and ſeverall other Perſons (and inſtead of melting of theſe Monies down) ſome Gold-ſmiths have Iſhewed theſe Monies out again in payment, whereas at the Tower thſe Clipped Monies would make but five ſhillings the Ounce-Troy, theſe men have vented out theſe Clipped Monies to divers Il-affected people at five ſhillings ſix pence, and five ſhillings eight pence, and ſix ſhillings the Ounce, who have diſperſed the ſaid Clipped Monies ſo bought from Gold-ſmiths up and down the Nation again, to the great Inriching of themſelves, and defrauding of the good people of this Nation, by buying up this Clipped Money ſince the Ordinance 1647. at the leaſt twenty times over, and venting it for currant again (which had been helped, if there had been but ſix words put into the Ordinance (which was to have required all perſons exchanging any Clipt or uncurrant *Engliſh* Money with any Gold-ſmith or others, upon forfeiture of duble the value, to ſee it cut in two peices or ſo defaced that it ſhould not be paſſable after.) I humbly preſent this defect of that Ordinance, that it may be looked after and amended, and I humbly deſire that the Act againſt tranſporting Treaſure now committed, may be enacted with ſuch vigour, that the Common-wealth may have the reall benefit, and the offenders brought to exemplarie Juſtice.

Their

There hath been twenty Millions of Money Coyned within this twenty five years as will appear by the Mint-Boooks, and almoſt all of it tranſported out of the Nation, the Gold all gone, the currant ſilver culled out, the weightieſt melted & tranſported: & that Silver-Monies which remains is but little, and all culled, Gold is made as pretious in this Common-wealth as Diamonds. What inconveniences will ariſe by the indirect dealing of private men in this particular to the Common-wealth, I ſhall humbly leave it to you to conſider.

In the year 1643. It was humbly offered to this Parliament, to have the offendours diſcovered and to bring them to Juſtice, and this miſchief ſtopped; but by the great Intereſt of the offendours, that had then power in this Nation, the Propoſition was ſlighted, and theſe miſchiefs ever ſince dayly practiſed, to the unſpeakable damage of this Common-wealth: for it is far eaſier to keep the Treaſure in the Nation by making ſtrict Laws againſt tranſportation, than when it is gon to bring it back, as too late experience will make this Common-wealth feel: but you have the power to call theſe offendours to a ſtrict account, if you paſs the Act fully to inable all people to make their diſcoveries, *how, and in what manner other Nations do puniſh theſe offendours, you have already preſented out of their Placcaets, This evil is grown to ſuch a height that both our own Laws put in the ſtricteſt execution, and the Cuſtoms and Laws of other Countries added to them for this particular, with the greateſt diligence of expert men, to make the ſearch for what is paſt, and to prevent theſe miſchiefs for the time to come, will be little enough: and to make this diſcovery is a ſervice of more Importance to the Common-wealth than at firſt ſight can be apprehended.*

This is a certain rule, no great action in any Common-wealth or State can be done but by Money, which all ages have held to be the Sinews of War, and Garland of Peace; and what occaſions we have to uſe it both for commerce and ſafety, is humbly left to you to conſider; and in all well regulated States it hath ever been accounted a great ſervice to diſcover the offendours and abuſes practiſed upon the Treaſure of their Nation: and to prevent the growth of theſe miſchiefs is the work of every faithfull lover of his Countrey; *And here they that ſhall be againſt the diſcovery of theſe offences and offendours, may amongſt judicious men be juſtly ſuſpected to be Parties themſelves.*

And though ſome Merchants and other Intereſted Perſons (may for their own Intereſt, either for their profit (or fear of Puniſhment for what they have done) ſpeak themſelves, or get others, to oppoſe the Act againſt tranſporting Treaſure to paſs the Houſe, or procure it to be ſo altered as it ſhall not be effectuall to give a full cure to the Common-wealth, of the great inconveniences it is now under, by ſeverall abuſes practiſed under *Coyn* and *Bullion*.

To give a cure to the Common-wealth of theſe great inconveniences,

enter, and also to take away the great obstructions of your Mint; which will never be done till this Act pass, and if it were more strider, it would be more beneficiall to the Common-wealth, especially in these times when you have so many occasions of Money, by bringing in presently very great sums of Money to the State by the Punishment of the Offendours.

You have here, with all humility, set down to you, the ways and means whereby your neighbour-Countreys use to prevent these mischiefs, and to punish the Offendours for what is past, with severall old Statutes of this Nation: out of which if you extract the quintisence, and make a sharp and vigorous Law, and require all your Officers and others to put it in full execution, you may in a short time cure this Common-wealth of these dangerous diseases, which if you let it go on, will prove a Gangrene.

I humbly beseech you to take notice, there hath been within seven years *Coyned* in ten dayes, more money in the Tower of *London*, than hath been *Coyned* near upon this three last years: now if you suffer Treasure to go out of the Nation every day for want of a Law, to give all people power to discover and examine the Offendours, in a short time you will not have any Money left in the Common-wealth (for experience in all ages shew, that little and slight penalties can never stop some Merchants from their profit, so they get to their private) they care not what mischiefs the Common-wealth suffers: (*for a Common-wealth without plenty of Money, looks like a great House unfurnished, and bare Walls is no handsome sight*) *and you will find there will not be Money left to pay your just Taxes, Customs and Excise, and to maintain Trade and commerce if you clear not the obstruction of the Mint, and take some effectuall course to set it a work: and this Act is but a preparation and ground-work to cause your Mint to go: and till it pass, you will never see your Mint flourish: for to allow any man to outgive the Mint for Bullion is, to shut up the Mint: for all men will vent their Treasure where they can have the greatest price, and not to make a way for the opening of the Mint at this time, especially when you have such occasions of Money.*

I shall humbly leave it to you to consider the consequence and inconvenience, what is here said, is with all humility presented to the Parliament for the service of the Common-wealth, by a faithfull lover of his Countrey, being desired to state my Reasons by some in Authority for pressing the aforesaid Act; I have humbly obeyed it and humbly conceive (if it were made strider than it is) it were far better for the Common-wealth: for transporting Treasure heretofore hath been made Felony, when the Common-wealth, I humbly conceive, had not so much occation to see to keep their Treasure in the Nation, and their Mint going as now they have.

T. V.

FINIS.